

Gerardo Ezequiel Martín Carreño

Critical cartography and situated interfaces: the map and the walk
as medium.

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SCREEN AND A4 EDITION

SPATIAL DERIVE

A walking instrument that records the street's sensory texture, the layer data leaves out.

A walking instrument that makes the phone already in your pocket a way to record the street's sensory texture, the layer satellites and administrative data leave out, by deepening attention rather than optimising a route.



ROLE

Founder and artist-technologist

SCALE

Body, street and city

CAPABILITIES

Creative technology, Critical cartography, Situated interfaces, Practice-based research

- A deployed mobile-first PWA at spatialderive.city, with local-first persistence in IndexedDB and a walking interface that remains useful without an account.
- A documented export system spanning structured data, a data dictionary, zines, fold-imposed PDFs, countermaps, posters and a complete bundle.
- Architectural decision records and a drafted DPIA for optional physiological data; the stricter public cross-walker workshop threshold is specified separately from other release contexts.
- Automated unit and end-to-end coverage across the narrator, sensors, persistence, export and interface layers.

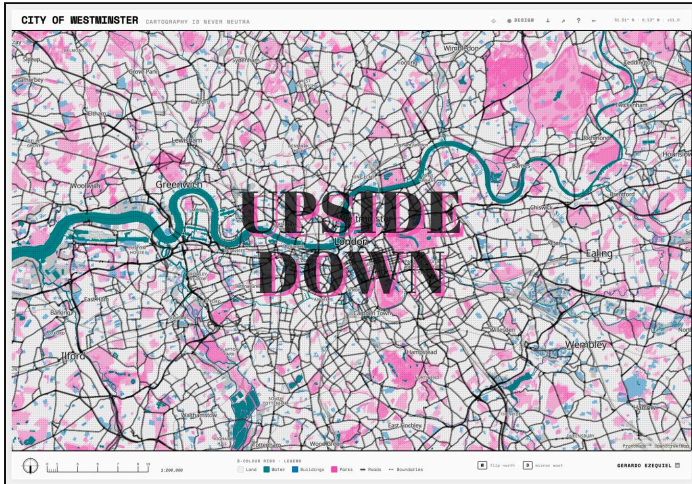
Claim boundary: Spatial Derive is the umbrella practice; the public Derive app is one evolving prototype within it, not a finished or peer-reviewed research claim. The DPIA is a draft pending UK data-protection-lawyer review before any production physiological-data launch, and several research metrics are partially instrumented rather than validated.

CASE STUDY [Read on gerardoezequiel.xyz](#) LIVE WORK [Visit Spatial Derive](#) ➤

UPSIDE DOWN WORLD

A south-up re-projection that turns the 1569 Mercator worldview against itself.

A live, interactive re-projection that turns the 1569 Mercator worldview against itself: flip the planet south-up and its familiar neutrality falls away, exposing north-on-top as a five-hundred-year-old choice, not a fact.



ROLE

Artist and developer

SCALE

Planetary representation

CAPABILITIES

Radical cartography, Visual systems, Map critique, Web development

- A public, browser-native map (MapLibre GL v5) that flips south-up and reorients on drag, so the bias is felt through the hand rather than only read.
- An honest treatment of the engine's limits: the live surface renders the Mercator-and-Globe flip, while alternative projections are exported as static plates rather than misrepresented as interactive.
- A free, unwatermarked poster export as the deliberate growth mechanism, where the shareable artefact is itself the argument.
- Framing that names north-on-top as a 1569 Mercator choice built for European sea navigation, turning a map toy into a piece of map critique.

Claim boundary: A cartographic provocation about orientation and whose worldview a standard map encodes, not a proposal to standardise a south-up world.

CASE STUDY [Read on gerardoezequiel.xyz](#) LIVE WORK [Visit Upside Down World](#) ↗

NO ONE HOME

A civic counter-map that makes England's long-term empty homes legible for investigation and organising.

Open housing evidence, built with the London Renters Union: fragmented official data reconciled into 296 comparable councils and a Lewisham map you can actually investigate.

ROLE

Researcher and developer

SCALE

England and Lewisham

CAPABILITIES

Civic data, Open research, Web mapping, Evidence design

- A 296-local-authority interactive choropleth with six switchable measures; the derived total of 303,185 differed from Action on Empty Homes' independently published 303,143 by 42 homes, or 0.014%.
- Lewisham's enforcement gap quantified from open data: 469 of 1,070 long-term empties (43.8%) carry no Empty Homes Premium, against a national gap of 150,257 (49.6%).
- A Lewisham building-level map of 96,123 Overture footprints delivered as 25 MB PMTiles vector tiles, plus a seven-sheet Excel deliverable and companion CSV built to the LRU brief.
- A full public methodology, a UK GDPR legitimate-interests assessment, three FOI templates, and a pipeline parametric on a single config that reruns for any of the 296 districts.

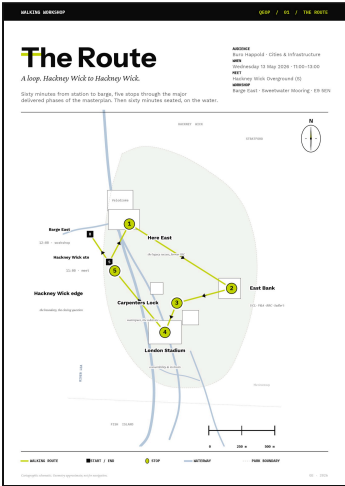
Claim boundary: The building layer supports investigation; it does not assert that every mapped footprint is an empty home. The per-property composite vacancy score is a documented, source-cited plan, not yet run: it awaits FOI aggregates and walking-survey ground truth before any individual building can be called empty.

CASE STUDY [Read on gerardoezequiel.xyz](#)

TWENTY YEARS ON THE LOWER LEA

A walking workshop reading twenty years of Olympic Park regeneration critically.

A two-hour walking workshop that reads twenty years of Olympic Park regeneration critically, on foot, where every engineer's phone becomes a voting booth and the walk itself is the data.



ROLE

Artist and developer

SCALE

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London

CAPABILITIES

Critical spatial practice, Participatory design, Web and print, Space syntax

- Delivered and run as a live two-hour session for the practice's Cities and Infrastructure team, not a prototype: three Supabase migrations applied to production, poll writes returning HTTP 201, bars moving on tap.
- Two synchronised deliverables shipped: a 15-page A4 print companion plus a standalone vector route map (PDF, SVG and PNG, A3/A4 printable) with a compass rose drawn in figure coordinates, and a mobile web companion deployed to Vercel.
- A full application, not a demo: around fifty React components, a Supabase schema with row-level security, realtime publication and read-only aggregate views, and Playwright end-to-end specs covering critical flows, print quality and the equity spine.
- A local-first sync layer with an optimistic update path, a persisted retry queue and auto-flush on reconnect, plus three geofenced context zones using haversine distance that surface a 30-second card on the path between stops.
- Every critical claim carries a verbatim citation (Watt 2013, City 17(1), with DOI; Debord 1958; Hillier 1984 and 1996) and every engineering claim a number or date; the brand lime was verified against source, coordinates against Google Places, and the cover quote transcribed verbatim from the interview record.

Claim boundary: This records my concept, design and build. It was made iteratively through critique and delivered as a collaboration; the commissioning practice, the co-host and the participant contributions are kept private, and there is no public link because the app was a live event surface rather than a showcase. The participation figures describe the design target of a room of around twenty-five, not independently audited attendance.

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